

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 261533Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMACIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4460
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 920

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECIN PEPR NS VE BR
SUBJ: ARRON DEPARTING FOR CARACAS AND BRASILIA

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SURINAM'S PRIME MINISTER (FOR FOREIGN MINISTER) HENCK ARRON DEPARTS PARAMARIBO FOR CARACAS JUNE 27 FOR BILATERAL TALKS WITH VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS AND WILL THEN PROCEED TO BRASILIA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SIGNING OF THE AMAZON PACT. HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN JULY 7.

2. VISIT TO VENEZUELA IS ARRON'S SECOND AS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, WITH THE FIRST HAVING TAKEN PLACE IN 1974 BEFORE SURINAM BECAME INDEPENDENT. IN CARACAS, ARRON WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ AND FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI AND SIGN AGREEMENTS COVERING TECHNICAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HELD ON AN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED WHEN PRESIDENT PEREZ MAKES A STATE VISIT TO SURINAM IN LATE JULY. RATIFICATIONS OF THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION SIGNED WHEN VENEZUELAN FONMIN CONSALVI WAS IN PARAMARIBO LAST JANUARY WILL BE EXCHANGED AND THE VENEZUEAL-SURINAMESE JOINT COMMISSION WILL BE INSTALLED. IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT
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SURINAM WILL FORMALLY BE ADMITTED AS THE 26TH MEMBER OF SELA DURING ARRON'S STAY IN CARACAS.

3. ARRON WILL BE ACCOMPANIED ON HIS TRIP BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR HEINEMANN, DEVELOPMENT MINISTER CAMBRIDGE, GOS ADVISOR EWALD KARAMAT ALI, AND THE SURINAMESE MEMBERS OF THE NEW JOINT COMMISSION. THE OFFICIAL PARTY WILL TRAVEL BY A

SPECIAL PLANE PROVIDED BY THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT.

4. ON JULY 1, ARRON AND A PORTION OF HIS GROUP WILL TRAVEL TO BRASILIA WHERE ARRON WILL SIGN, ON BEHALF OF SURINAM, THE AMAZON PACT. IN A RADIO INTERVIEW BROADCAST JUNE 25, ARRON CALLED THE PACT IMPORTANT TO SURINAM AND NOTED THAT SURINAM'S OWN DEVELOPMENT CAN BE INFLUENCED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENTIRE AMAZON REGION. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: THE ARRON VISIT TO CARACAS AND SURINAM'S SIGNING OF THE AMAZON PACT ARE THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF GOS MOVES CONFIRMING ARRON'S OWN EMPHASIS ON RELATIONS WITH SURINAM'S TWO BIGGEST NEIGHBORS. WHILE SURINAM-VENEZUELA AND SURINAM-BRAZIL RELATIONS MAY AT THE MOMENT BE SHORT ON SUBSTANCE, FEELING IN GOS IS THAT THEY WILL GROW SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE FUTURE, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF TRADE, EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND PERHAPS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. NOT TO BE EXCLUDED, OF COURSE, IS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT OR AT LEAST UNDERSTANDING WHICH SURINAM HOPES TO ESTABLISH AS IT SEEKS EVENTUALLY TO SETTLE ITS LONGSTANDING BORDER DISPUTE WITH NEIGHBORING GUYANA. HOW FORTHCOMING VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL ARE PREPARED TO BE, HOWEVER, (EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT VENEZUELA HAS OFFERED A \$5 MILLION TRADE CREDIT TO SURINAM, WHICH IS APPARENTLY NOT OF MUCH INTEREST HERE BECAUSE OF HIGH COSTS IN VENEZUELA) REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
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